

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AF-10 DRC-01 /116 W

----- 016570

R 090837Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3841

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10411

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JS, KS

SUBJECT: ROK DENIES VISAS TO THREE DIETMEN

SUMMARY: DENIAL OF VISAS BY ROK TO THREE DIET AFRO-ASIAN GROUP MEMBERS RECEIVED SOME PRESS ATTENTION BUT IS NOT REGARDED AS INCIDENT OF SIGNIFICANCE TO ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS. FONOFF REGARDS PLAN TO VISIT AS PROVOCATIVELY CONCEIVED AND TIMED. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL PRESS CARRIED STORIES OF REJECTION BY ROK OF VISA APPLICATIONS OF THREE LDP DIETMEN OF AFRO-ASIAN STUDY GROUP. DIETMEN, HAJIME ISHII, KOCHIRO AINO, AND SETSU SHIGA, HAD PLANNED TO VISIT ROK AUGUST 8 TO MEET ROK LEADERS AND DISCUSS ROK INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SITUATION.

2. FONOFF NE ASIA DIV DIRECTOR SEO TOLD EMBASSY THAT WHILE INCIDENT WOULD NOT IMPROVE ROK'S IMAGE IN JAPAN, HE UNDERSTOOD WHY ROK TOOK ACTION IT DID. LED BY ISHII, GROUP WAS PROBABLY GOING TO ROK TO GATHER MATERIAL TO BE USED LATER AT CONFERENCE IN US TO EMBARRASS ROKG. TIMING, ON ANNIVERSARY OF KIM DAE JUNG'S

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KIDNAPPING FROM TOKYO, WAS PROVOCATIVE. FURTHERMORE,

SEO CONCLUDED, FACT THAT AFRO-ASIAN GROUP ALSO ANNOUNCED ANOTHER VISIT BY DIETMAN AND AFRO-ASIAN GROUP MEMBER UTSUNOMIYA TO NORTH KOREA WAS EVEN MORE PROVOCATIVE TO ROKG. SEO FELT DIETMEN ALSO PLANNED TRIP POORLY BY ANNOUNCING VISIT PRIOR TO GETTING APPROVAL FROM ROKG. SEO SAID GOJ WOULD NOT PROTEST TO ROKG. HE NOTED INCIDENTALLY THAT ROK EMBASSY IN TOKYO HAD TRIED VERY HARD TO GET VISA REJECTION REVERSED.

3. YOMIURI'S HIRANO TOLD US THAT AT BACKGROUND AUGUST 8, PRESS QUERIED VICE FOUNDER ON INCIDENT. REPORTER NOTED THAT USG PROTESTED US JOURNALIST BETH POND'S NOT BEING PERMITTED RETURN TO ROK AND ASKED WHY GOJ WOULD NOT PROTEST VISA DENIAL TO DIET MEMBERS FROM GOVERNMENT'S OWN PARTY. TOGO CONTENDED THAT DIETMEN WERE NOT PART OF GOVERNMENT AND, IN ANY CASE, AFFAIR WAS INTERNAL ROK MATTER. AT DIFFERENT BACKGROUND, FOUNDER KIMURA TOLD JOURNALISTS IT WAS "VERY, VERY BAD" BUT SAID, "HE WAS NOT PROTESTING TO ROKG".

4. COMMENT: AFRO-ASIAN GROUP HAS USED INCIDENT FOR PROPAGANDA EFFECT AND NOT GOTTEN MUCH. PRESS SHIFTED TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AUG 9. IN TERMS OF ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS, INCIDENT'S EFFECT IS PRIMARILY IN PUBLIC SPHERE AND NOT AN ISSUE OF CONSEQUENCE IN FUTURE. FOR MOMENT GOJ IS WAITING ON NEXT MOVE BY ROKG WHICH SEO EXPECTS WILL HAVE SOME AMELIORATING EFFECT ON ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS. HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, JA, KS  
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